

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DLOS-04 ACDA-10 INT-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OFA-01

EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 AGR-10 DOTE-00 FMC-02 NRC-07

OES-05 /145 W

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R 070110Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4127

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

USUN NEW YORK 33

CINCPAC

HICOMTERPACIS 12

UNCLAS SUVA 735

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

HICOMTERPACIS FOR STATUS LNO

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SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM CLOSES ON SOUR NOTE

REF: A) SUVA 715 (NOTAL) B) SUVA 722

1. ANNUAL MEETING OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM (REFTELS) HELD IN
NUKU ALOFA, TONGA, ENDED JULY 3.

2. FROM PACIFIC ISLANDS POINT OF VIEW, ONE OF MAJOR ITEMS
UNCLASSIFIED

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ON AGENDA WAS ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL SHIPPING LINE.
PRIMIN MARA EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT REGIONAL SHIPPING LINE
WOULD BE ABLE TO FUNCTION IN FACE OF ATTITUDES TOWARD PACIFIC
ISLANDS SHIPS AND SEAMEN ON PART OF MARITIME UNIONS IN BOTH

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. HE CITED TWO RECENT EXAMPLES OF DIFFICULTIES- AUSTRALIAN UNION REACTION TO FIJI GAS CO. SHIP STRIKE-BOUND IN SYDNEY (UNIONS HAD DEMANDED AUSTRALIAN RATES OF PAY AND LEAVE CONDITIONS FOR SEAMEN ON FIJI REGISTERED SHIP) AND DECLARATION BY NEW ZEALAND UNIONS THAT THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW NON-NZ SHIPS TO CARRY FIJI SUGAR INTO THEIR COUNTRY HOWEVER FORUM SUPPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF LINE.

3. WHEN TIME CAME TO WRITE FORUM'S FINAL COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, AUSTRALIA'S DELEGATE FORMER SENATOR DON WILLESEE, OBJECTED TO INCLUSION OF FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH: "FORUM RECOGNIZED THAT VITAL FACTOR IN VIABILITY OF REGIONAL SHIPPING LINE WAS A COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE BY MARITIME TRADE UNIONS OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND TOWARDS THE PACIFIC ISLANDS LINE", AND WANTED IT EXCLUDED. PRIMIN MARA SAID WORDING WAS ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF DISCUSSIONS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS WILLESEE ASKED PRIMIN TO PROVE HIS POINT. AT SOME POINT, PRIMIN SAID WILLESEE HAD ACCUSED HIM OF LYING. (REPORTING OF DISCUSSION IS SCANTY SINCE SESSION WAS CLOSED TO PRESS.) NEVERTHELESS, PRESS REPORTS THAT AT RECEPTION THAT EVENING TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING OF TONGA, FACT THAT ISLANDERS WERE UPSET BY UPEHAVAL AND SIDED WITH FIJI WAS APPARENT IN ATTITUDE TOWARD AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS. FIJI DELEGATION, INCLUDING PRIMIN, HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO FIJI JULY 4 ON SPECIAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE PLANE CARRYING AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION HOME, BUT

INSTEAD ELECTED TO REMAIN IN TONGA UNTIL NEXT REGULARLY AIR PACIFIC FLIGHT ON JULY 5.

4. REGIONAL AIRLINE: NO PROGRESS MADE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL AIRLINE TO SERVE AREA, ALTHOUGH FORUM AGREED THAT FOUR EXISTING AIRLINES AREA SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON GIVING BETTER SERVICE. FIJI PRIMIN POINTED OUT THAT CONSULTATIVE BODY SET UP LAST YEAR TO LOOK INTO REGIONAL AIRLINE HAD YET TO MEET.

5. BANABAN ISSUE: BANABAN PROBLEM NEVER BROUGHT UP OFFICIALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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IN FORUM. GILBERT/ELLICE ISLANDS CHIEF MINISTER ASKED FORUM TO ALLOW GEI TIME TO SOLVE THIS VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN ITS OWN WAY. PRIMIN MARA RECOMMENDED THAT BANABAN PROBLEM BE SUBJECT OF CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES (I.E. GEI, UK, FIJI, AND BANABAN REPS).

6. SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU OF ECONOMIC COORDINATION (SPEC), HEADQUARTERED IN SUVA, WAS NAMED OFFICIAL SECRETARIAT OF FORUM. DIRECTOR, MAHE TUPOUNIVA, TONGAN MINISTER OF FINANCE ON LEAVE TO HEAD SPEC, WAS EXTENDED WITH PERMISSION OF TONGAN GOVT.

7. CONTINUATION COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR-FREE PACIFIC

SENT TELEGRAMS TO ALL FORUM DELEGATIONS ASKING FOR SUPPORT
FOR SELF-DETERMINATION OF FRENCH TERRITORIES AND MICRONESIA,
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR BANABANS, BAN ON UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR
TESTINGS, AND INVESTIGATION OF RECENT PLEBISCITE IN NORTHERN
MARIANAS.
HALL

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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